AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) In a page server coupled to a network, a method of providing a customized page to a user, wherein the customized page is customized according to the user's preferences, the method comprising:

obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a shared local storage device;

storing a user-specific template program for the user in a data structure associated with a user identifier unique to the user;

receiving, from the user and at the page server, a user request for a customized page;

determining a user identifier associated with the request;

~~retrieving a stored~~ receiving a template program specific to the user ~~in the data structure~~ using the determined user identifier associated with the user request[[;]],

wherein the template program is received from one of at least two locations, the location determined from frequency of the user request for the customized page;

executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time information stored in the shared local storage device to generate the customized page,

wherein the template program indicates items of interest to the user; and

providing the user with the customized page.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising, prior to receiving the user request, caching the template program in a storage location local to the page server.

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12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising receiving user preferences for the user, wherein the user preferences indicate the items of interest to the user, and combining the user preferences with a generic template to form the template program specific to the user.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising providing the template program specific to the user to the page server.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the page server performs the combining of the user preferences with the generic template.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the real-time information comprises stock quotes, sports scores and news headlines.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising generating a default user configuration for the user based on demographic information of the user.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein generating a default user configuration comprises:

determining a default list of cities for a weather report based on user demographic information; and

determining one or more sports teams for sports reporting based on user demographic information.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein determining a user identifier comprises:

obtaining user postal code information;

translating the postal code information to user geographic position;

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comparing the user geographic position to geographic positions assigned to each city and sports team; and

determining a threshold distance from the user geographic position which is greater than or equal to a distance to a predetermined nonzero number of cities and a predetermined nonzero number of sports team geographic positions.

19. (Currently amended) Using a page server, a method of providing real-time responses to user requests from a plurality of users for customized pages, the method comprising:

obtaining user preferences for the plurality of users, wherein a user's user preferences indicate items of interest to that user;

obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a shared local storage device;

for each of the plurality of users, combining the user preferences for a specific user and a template to form a template program specific to the user at the page server; ·

storing user-specific template programs for each of the plurality of users in a data structure associated with user identifiers;

receiving, from a user at the page server, a user request for a customized page;

determining a user identifier associated with the user request;

retrieving a stored receiving a template program specific to the user in the data structure using the determined user identifier associated with the user request[[;]]_

wherein the template program is received from one of at least two locations, the location determined from frequency of the user request for the customized page;

executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time information stored in the shared local storage device to generate the customized page at the page server according to the user preferences; and

providing the user with the customized page,

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wherein the steps of executing and providing are performed in real-time response to receipt of the user request in the step of receiving,

wherein the customized page includes at least one item of real-time information selected from the shared local storage device.

20. (Currently amended) In a page server coupled to a network, a method of providing customized pages to a plurality of users, wherein a customized page for a user is customized according to the user's preferences, the method comprising:

obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a shared local storage device;

storing user-specific template programs for each of the plurality of users in a data structure associated with user identifiers;

receiving, at the page server, requests for a customized page from the plurality of users, wherein a first request is received from a first user in the plurality of users and a second request is received from a second user;

determining a first user identifier associated with the first request;

determining a second user identifier associated with the second request;

~~retrieving a~~ receiving a first ~~stored~~ template program specific to the first user ~~in the data structure~~ using the determined first user identifier for the first user[[;]] **.**

wherein the first template program is received from one of at least two locations, the location determined from frequency of the first user request for the first customized page;

~~retrieving a~~ receiving a second ~~stored~~ template program specific to the second user ~~in the data structure~~ using the determined second user identifier for the~~ second~~ user[[;]]**,**

wherein the second template program is received from one of at least two locations, the location determined from frequency of the second user request for the second customized page;

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executing the first template program specific to the first user and the second template program specific to the second user using the real-time information stored in the shared local storage device as input to the first and second template programs to generate [[a]] the first customized page for the first user and [[a]] the second customized page for the second user,

wherein the first template program uses data associated with the first user and the second user template uses data associated with the second user; and

providing the first user with the first customized page and the second user with the second customized page,

wherein the first and second customized page include at least one item of real-time information selected from the shared local storage device.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising, prior to receiving the user requests, caching the first and second template programs in a storage location local to the page server.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving user preferences for the first and second users, wherein the user preferences indicate the items of interest to the first and second users, and combining the user preferences for the first user with a generic template to form the first template program specific to the first user and combining the user preferences for the second user with the generic template to form the second template program specific to the second user.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing the first and second template programs to the page server.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the page server performs combining of the user preferences with the generic template for the first and second users.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the real-time information comprises stock quotes, sports scores and news headlines.

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26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising generating a default user configuration for the first and second users based on demographic information of the first and second users.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein generating a default user configuration comprises:

determining a default list of cities for a weather report based on user demographic information; and

determining one or more sports teams for sports reporting based on user demographic information.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein determining a first user identifier and determining a second user identifier comprise:

obtaining user postal code information;

translating the postal code information to user geographic position;

comparing the user geographic position to geographic positions assigned to each city and sports team; and

determining a threshold distance from the user geographic position which is greater than or equal to a distance to a predetermined nonzero number of cities and a predetermined nonzero number of sports team geographic positions.

29. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the template program comprises receiving the template program from a local storage of cached user templates when the specific user request for the customized page is of a higher frequency.

30. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the template program comprises remotely generating the template program for the user when the specific user request is of a lower frequency.

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    31. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein receiving the template program comprises receiving the template program from a local storage of cached user templates when the frequency of specific user request for the customized page is high.

    32. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein receiving the template program comprises remotely generating the template program for the user when the frequency of specific user request for the customized page is low.

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